

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177875

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /026 R

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AF/EX:PFKENNEDY

FAA/AIA-100:JHSHAFFER

EB/OA:MHSTYLES

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R 191308Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, AFSP, MR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR MAURITANIE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1643

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR DETAILED RECORD OF
AIRM PROCEDURES, WHICH ARE SO UNSAFE THAT, WITH YOUR
CONCURRENCE, WE PROPOSE TO SEND A CIRCULAR TELEGRAM
INSTRUCTING ALL OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS TO AVOID AIRM.

2. WE REGRET NOT HAVING BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY CRITERIA
FOR EMBASSY COLLECTION, BUT IN VIEW OF YOUR DETAILED
KNOWLEDGE, NONE WAS NEEDED.

3. HAVING DECIDED THAT AIRM IS DEFINATELY UNSAFE,
WE PROCEED TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
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PAGE 02 STATE 177875

IN ADDITION TO THE BAN ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL PROPOSED IN

PARAGRAPH 1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTIONS TO
THE FOLLOWING:

- A) POSSIBLE WARNING TO THE U.S. TRAVELLING PUBLIC;
- B) SEEKING SUPPORT IN THE NOUAKCHOTT FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC
COMMUNITY;
- C) DISCUSSION WITH AIRM AND/OR GIRM.

4. CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS TO COME FROM THE MAURITANIANS.
WE CAN HELP THEM RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM, BY ASKING FAA TO

TRY TO SEND SOMEONE THROUGH, EITHER FROM EUROPE OR FROM
FAA LAGOS. THERE ISN'T TOO MUCH FAA CAN DO WITHOUT AN
INVITATION, AND SOME SORT OF REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT HASN'T BEEN ABLE
TO FUND AIRLINE SAFETY OR MAINTENANCE TRAINING IN A
LONG TIME. WE DOUBT THAT ICAO WOULD BE A USEFUL SOURCE
OF ASSISTANCE, SINCE MAURITANIA HAD 3 ICAO ADVISORS IN
1975. JUDGING FROM YOUR REPORTING, HUGHES AIRWEST WAS
DOING A REASONABLY GOOD JOB, AND COULD ADVISE THE
MAURITANIANS IF THEY WANTED TO LISTEN. OUR ACTION COULD
CONCEIVABLY STRENGTHEN HUGHES AIRWEST'S HAND IN GETTING
REFORMS. KISSINGER

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